

## Elements of Music

1. **MELODY:** A single line of notes that are heard in succession as a cohesive unit. In order for something to be considered a melody, you must be able to recognize it as a tune.

- Melodies move forward through time. Unlike most other art forms, you have to experience it as it happens.
- Melodies have shapes that curve up and down.
- Melodies are made up of phrases...these phrases can be different sizes.
- Melodies always conclude with a *CADENCE*. This cadence lets you know that the piece is done.

### *PHRASES*

- Phrases in music are similar to phrases in the spoken and written language.
- The comma in a sentence can be compared to the breaths of a player. These breaths often signal the start of a new phrase.
- Short phrases combine to form longer phrases. Longer phrases combine to create complete melodies.

*SCALES:* A collection of notes that moves stepwise, covering eight notes (or one octave). A scale could be C-C, A-A.

- The notes of a melody always derive from the notes of a scale.
- **STEPS** on a scale are known as notes that are adjacent together. **LEAPS**, however, are exactly as it sounds. They are notes that aren't adjacent.
- *INTERVALS* are the distance between notes of a scale or a melody. These intervals could be 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and instead of an 8<sup>th</sup>, an octave.

*CADENCE:* A point of resolution, rest, and stability. As mentioned before, this cadence lets the audience know that the piece is over.

- Melodies always conclude with a cadence.
- It can be thought of as a period at the end of a sentence.
- In order for the audience to know when to clap, cadences must be predictable.